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SCIENCE NEWS LETTER

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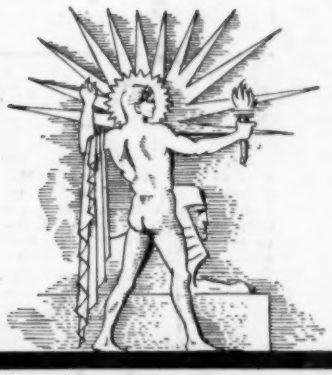
THE WEEKLY SUMMARY OF CURRENT SCIENCE •



April 19, 1941

Pink Elephants

See Page 242

A SCIENCE SERVICE PUBLICATION

Do You Know?

The United States has the capacity for producing 44% of the world's *steel*.

Animal *horns* are of bone encased in horny covering, whereas antlers are entirely of bone.

Made without spinning or weaving, newest *carpets* are of burlap, coated with rubber cement into which wool pile is locked by vulcanizing.

NEW BOOKS ON SCIENCE—SPRING 1941

This issue contains the semi-annual list of current books in various scientific fields, published or to be published during the first half of 1941. Some of them are the first books published in America on new advances in science. Others are revisions of standard works which you need in your library.

Science Service will obtain for you any American book which is in print, paying postage in the United States. Send check or money order to cover regular retail price ($5 if price is unknown, change to be remitted). When publications are free, send 10c for handling. Address: Book Department, SCIENCE NEWS LETTER, *2101 Constitution Ave., Washington, D. C.*

BOTANY

Gather Pink Elephants Without Any Headache

See Front Cover.

IN THE high meadows of the Rocky Mountains it is possible to find quantities of pink elephants like those on the cover of this week's SCIENCE NEWS LETTER with no unfortunate after effects.

The plant is *Pedicularis groenlandica*, or more descriptively if not more accurately *Elephantella groenlandica*, according to Dr. Robert S. Snell, botanist of Utah State Agricultural College, who secured this photograph. Popularly, it is called "Little Pink Elephant."

Science News Letter, April 19, 1941

● RADIO

Dr. Hugh S. Taylor, of Princeton University, who delivers the Franklin Medal Lecture of the American Philosophical Society, the same evening, will join with Watson Davis, director of Science Service, in giving news of the meeting on "Adventures in Science," over the coast to coast network of the Columbia Broadcasting System, Thursday, April 24, 3:45 p.m. EST, 2:45 CST, 1:45 MST, 12:45 PST. Listen in on your local station. Listen in each Thursday.

NUTRITION

Nutrition Authorities See No Danger From Vitamin

PEOPLE who eat the new enriched bread and flour containing additional amounts of the morale vitamin B_1 (thiamin), are in no danger of toxic effects such as Dr. Clarence A. Mills, University of Cincinnati, reports resulted from vitamin overdosage in Panama. This assurance is given by Dr. Helen Mitchell, director of nutrition, Federal Security Agency, and Dr. Henry Sebrell, nutrition authority of the U. S. Public Health Service.

These two authorities and officials of the U. S. Food and Drug Administration, which is now working on standards for enriched flour containing added amounts of vitamin B_1, do not think the national program for improving American diets involves any danger at all of poisoning from overdosage.

Conference between Dr. Sebrell and Dr. Mills revealed that the amount of the vitamin which caused the toxic effects observed by Dr. Mills in Panama was eight or nine times the amount the average person will get from eating the new enriched flour or bread.

Dr. Mills told Dr. Sebrell he is in favor of the national program for improving the diet by adding vitamins to staple foods and that his findings, he believes, apply only to persons in the tropics who take very large medicinal doses of the vitamin, in addition to that obtained from food, and for very long periods of time.

Even this is considered a new observation needing further study and confirmation.

Science News Letter, April 19, 1941

● Earth Trembles

Information collected by Science Service from seismological observatories resulted in the location by the U. S. Coast and Geodetic Survey of the following preliminary epicenter:

Tuesday, April 1, 5:41.1 a.m. EST

In Pacific Ocean, 70 miles south of Kodiak Island. Latitude, 56.0 degrees north, Longitude, 153.0 degrees west. Strong shock.

Monday, April 7, 6:29.2 p.m., EST

In Caribbean Sea 170 miles southwest of Jamaica. Latitude, near 17.0 degrees north. Longitude, 78.5 degrees west. Very strong. Quakes not frequent in that region.

For stations cooperating with Science Service, the Coast and Geodetic Survey and the Jesuit Seismological Association in reporting earthquakes recorded on their seismographs, see *SNL*, Feb. 22, 1941.

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MEDICINE

Serum and Sulfanilamide Saves 30 out of 43 Lives

Chemical Methods Used in Preparing Antiserum Has Led to Triple Vaccine for Single-Shot Protection

SAVING of 30 out of 43 child lives doomed otherwise to almost certain death from influenzal meningitis was achieved by a treatment reported by Dr. Michael Heidelberger and Dr. Hattie E. Alexander of Columbia University Medical School, and Dr. William E. Bunney, Dr. Tillman D. Gerlough and Dr. John W. Palmer, of E. R. Squibb and Sons, New Brunswick, N. J., at the meeting of the American Chemical Society in St. Louis.

Chemical methods used in preparing the antiserum for this treatment can be applied to health improvement for national defense, it was pointed out. Experience with these methods has already led to production of a triple vaccine against typhoid fever, tetanus (lockjaw) and diphtheria, which has shown protective value in animal tests. If trials on humans confirm these findings, it will be possible, with a single "shot in the arm," to give a soldier, or a civilian population in times of disaster, protection against these three serious diseases.

Influenzal meningitis, for which the treatment now reported was said to be the most successful yet developed, is not due to the virus that causes influenza, but to another kind of germ, called Haemophilus influenzae, type B. The disease attacks small children chiefly and is rare both in adults and in children over eight years of age. It is highly fatal. Before the new treatment was instituted, the mortality rate at the Babies' Hospital, New York City, was 100%.

Antiserum, such as was used in the treatment described, is made by injecting the germ of a disease into the veins of a horse or, more recently, a rabbit. The animal responds by the production of a specific chemical substance in the blood, which is called an antibody.

The active agents in the antisera used for treatment are now known to be circulating proteins modified under the stimulus of the bacterial vaccine or other agent used in producing serum in animals. Analytical chemical micro-methods for picking out these active curative agents from the other inert matter of the serum and actually weighing the amount present, instead of depending on vague relative methods, have not only resulted in a great extension of knowledge regarding the curative antibodies, but have supplied a valuable means of checking the value of alternative methods of immunization and so producing stronger and more efficient antisera and deciding which species of animal produces the best sera.

When these sera are available, the same methods aid in purification and separation of the antibodies, so that the reactions and inconveniences resulting from their use may be minimized. If the antibodies have not been damaged in purification the same analytical methods provide a quicker, cheaper and more humane index of potency than, for instance, the testing of antibodies in mice.

These new methods were used to prepare the rabbit antisera and purified rabbit antibody which, used along with sulfanilamide, turned the 100% influenzal meningitis death rate into an approximately 70% recovery rate.

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MEDICINE

Cancer of Lower Lip May Come From Chronic Sunburn

SO-CALLED smokers' cancer, when it occurs on the lower lips of laborers, may be due to chronic inflammation from habitual sunburn and not to smoking, as has previously been believed, Dr. George C. Andrews, of Presbyterian Hospital, New York, declared at a meeting sponsored by the American Society for the Control of Cancer.

"Sunlight, like most things that are good for us, if indulged in to excess may be harmful, even to the point of causing cancer," he said.

He sees no reason, however, for alarm on the part of persons who go in for suntan as a fad or who work in outdoor occupations, because skin cancers occur where they attract attention when still small and they can all be cured if properly treated.

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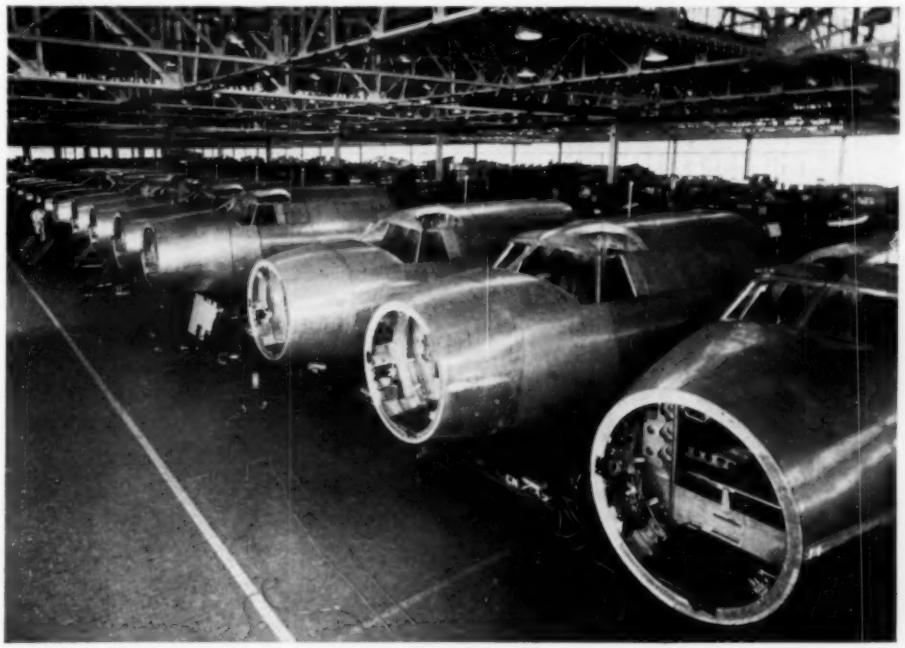
Peppermint leaves are one of Germany's tea substitutes, it is reported.



BOMBERS

Lined up here are nose-sections of the new Martin B-26 medium bomber, awaiting their turn on the final assembly floor of the Glenn L. Martin Company, Baltimore. By a new production tooling and technique, the big sections meet in the splicing jigs and invariably fit to within a few thousandths of an inch.

FOR ISOTOPES

Hubert E. Tanis, Jr., of General Electric Laboratory staff, adjusting the thermal diffusion apparatus.

PHYSICS

Towering Test Tube May Separate Power Atoms

A TOWERING instrument 14 feet high, in the General Electric Research Laboratory, may prove the forerunner of the equipment with which science will one day separate power-producing atoms in sizable quantities.

The device is a "thermal diffusion apparatus." It is used in the separation of isotopes, which are forms of the same chemical element of different atomic weight. It was once thought that all atoms of the gas chlorine, for instance, weighed the same—about thirty-five and a half times that of the hydrogen atom.

During the past quarter century researches have shown that chlorine, like most elements, really consists of atoms of different weights. About three-quarters of the ordinary chlorine atoms are of weight 35, one-quarter of weight 37, while there are a very few of weight 39.

Two German scientists at the University of Munich, K. Clusius and G. Dickel, a few years ago devised the thermal diffusion method, which has proven to be one of the most efficient methods for separating the different forms, or "isotopes," of the elements. With it, they have separated not only the isotopes of chlorine, but those of neon, krypton and others.

Potentially of great importance is the fact that the same method may be used to separate the 235 isotope from the heavy element uranium. This isotope is the one that may prove capable of yielding practicable atomic power, as it is estimated that a pound of U-235 would provide several million times as much energy as a pound of coal. More than a year ago, scientists in the General Electric Laboratories, as well as at the University of Minnesota, succeeded in securing exceedingly minute amounts of the isotope by another method, but not enough to test its power-producing capabilities.

The G. E. thermal diffusion separator consists of two glass tubes, 14 feet long, one inside the other, and a gold wire extending from top to bottom in the inner tube. It contains, in gaseous form, the material to be separated, which is kept at a fixed temperature by passing steam through the outer tube. When the gold wire is heated, the lighter atoms go to the top and the heavier atoms to the bottom where they are collected. A gold wire is used because a baser metal might be consumed or attacked by the material being studied.

For separating uranium isotopes, a material other than glass would have to be used, since the only gaseous compound of uranium is uranium hexafluoride. Because of the fluorine in it, this gas attacks glass. If the tubes were also made of gold, they would not be affected.

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★★★★★★★★★★★★★★

WYOMING

Fish in its mountain streams. Ride horseback thru its hills and canyons. Find Indian relics and marine fossils in this region of great historical and geologic interest.

The Patons welcome a limited number of guests at their ranch home in the Big Horn country. Cabins are comfortable, food good and horses gentle.

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Paton Ranch, Shell, Wyoming

MEDICINE

Hope for Chemical Cure For Human Tuberculosis

Guinea Pigs Exposed to Infection Saved From Disease By New Sulfa Drug Promin; Effect on Humans Not Known

HOPE that a chemical to cure tuberculosis in humans will eventually be found is strengthened by results in treating tuberculosis in guinea pigs with a new sulfa drug, promin, reported by Dr. William H. Feldman, Dr. H. C. Hinshaw and Dr. H. E. Moses, of the Mayo Clinic, at the meeting of the American Association of Pathologists and Bacteriologists in New York.

More than four-fifths of the guinea pigs treated with promin survived infection with human tuberculosis germs for 189 days, although all the untreated animals were dead of the infection by that time. No gross signs of tuberculosis could be found in 60% of the promin-treated animals. All the animals that survived had gained weight and were alert and as active as normal guinea pigs.

Whether the drug was given before, at the same time as, or weeks after the tuberculosis germs, the "expected course of the disease was unmistakably altered," the Mayo Clinic doctors reported.

To expect equally good results in treating tuberculosis in humans with promin would be "injudicious," the scientists pointed out, because the human tuberculosis patient presents a distinct and different problem that may or may not respond to this or any other chemical remedy.

"However," they state, "the observation that an established infection of guinea-pigs with a human strain of tubercle bacilli can be modified to the advantage of the host lends confidence to the belief that eventually a chemotherapeutic agent may be found that will exert a favorable effect on tuberculosis infections of human beings."

Science News Letter, April 19, 1941

NEW BOOKS ON SCIENCE

Science News Letter presents a comprehensive list of scientific books published or to be published between January 1 and June 30, 1941. All information is believed to be correct but is not guaranteed. Prices are listed where known. Prices marked * are tentative.

Aeronautics

ABC OF AVIATION, rev. ed.—Victor W. Page—*Henley*, $2.50.

AERODYNAMICS OF THE AIRPLANE—Millikan—*Wiley*.

AERONAUTICS IN THE UNION AND CONFEDERATE ARMIES, Vol. I—F. S. Haydon—*Johns Hopkins*, $4.

AEROPLANE INSTRUMENTS, Part II—E. Molloy—*Chem. Pub.*, $2.

AIR RAID DEFENSE—Curt Wachtel—*Chem. Pub.*, $3.50.

AIRCRAFT SHEET METAL WORK, Vol. I—H. E. Boggess—*Pitman*, $1.25.

AIRPLANE DRAFTING — Brimm — *International Textbook*, $3.50.

AIRPLANE SERVICING MANUAL, rev. ed. — Victor W. Page—*Henley*, $6.

ALL AMERICAN AIRCRAFT — E. K. Gann — *Crowell*, $2.

AMERICAN AVIATION DIRECTORY, 1941—David Shawe, ed.—*Amer. Aviation Associates*, $3.

AVIATION ENGINE LUBRICATION AND MAINTENANCE CHART—Page—*Henley*, 50c.

AVIATION ENGINE TROUBLE CHART — Victor W. Page—*Henley*, 50c.

AVIATION FROM SHOP TO SKY—J. J. Floherty —*Lippincott*, $2.

AVIATION MECHANIC—Carl Norcross and J. D. Quinn—*McGraw*, $3., $3.50.

BUILDING AND FLYING MODEL AIRPLANES — Air Youth of Amer.—*Appleton*, $2.

CIVIL AIR DEFENSE—A. M. Prentiss—*Whittlesey*.

FLIGHT, A GENERAL SURVEY OF FUNDAMENTALS OF AVIATION—Bailey Wright, J. J. Smiley Jr. and Rex Martin—*Amer. Tech. Soc.*, $2.50.

FLIGHT, CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE—Bailey Wright, W. E. Dyer and Rex Martin —*Amer. Tech. Soc.*, $2.50.

FLIGHT, NAVIGATION—Bailey Wright and Rex Martin—*Amer. Tech. Soc.*, $3*.

FLYING FLEETS — S. Paul Johnston —*Duell*, $2.50.

FLYING INSTRUCTION — Walter Bartky, ed.—*U. Chicago*.

HORIZONS UNLIMITED — S. Paul Johnston — *Duell*, $3.75.

INTRODUCTION TO AVIATION — J. P. Eames —*Chem. Pub.*, $3.50.

MODERN FLIGHT—Cloyd P. Clevenger—*Noble and Noble*, $2.95.

MOLD-LOFT WORK—Halliburton—*International Textbook*, $2.15.

PRELIMINARY AIRPLANE DESIGN—R. C. Wilson—*Pitman*, $1.

THE R. A. F. IN ACTION—*Macmillan*, $2.

SIMPLIFIED AERIAL NAVIGATION BY DEAD RECKONING — J. A. McMullen—*Chem. Pub.*, $2.50.

SO YOU'RE GOING TO FLY—J. L. H. Peck—*Dodd*, $2.50.

WINGED WARFARE—H. H. Arnold and Ira C. Eaker—*Harper*, $3.

YOUTH IN AVIATION—Air Youth of Amer.—*Appleton*, $2.50.

Agriculture, Horticulture

A BOOK OF GARDEN FLOWERS—Margaret McKenny—*Macmillan*, $2.

COLONIAL FOREST ADMINISTRATION — R. S. Troup—*Oxford U.*, $9*.

COMMERCIAL FERTILIZERS, 3d ed.—G. H. Collings—*Blakiston's*.

COMMERCIAL FLOWER FORCING, 3d ed.—A. Laurie and G. H. Poesch—*Blakiston's*.

THE COMPLETE BOOK OF GARDEN MAGIC — Roy E. Biles—*Ferguson*, $3.

CONSERVATION OF RENEWABLE NATURAL RESOURCES—Raphael Zon and others—*U. Penn.*, $2*.

DAIRY CATTLE, 3d ed.—Yapp and Nevens—*Wiley*.

DO YOU KNOW YOUR GARDEN? — G. M. Goshorn—*Oxford*, $2.50.

ELEMENTARY MANUAL OF INDIAN FOREST UTILIZATION — H. Trotter — *Oxford U.*, $7.50*.

FARM ANIMALS: THEIR BREEDING, GROWTH AND INHERITANCE — J. Hammond — *Longmans*, $4.50.

FARM BUILDINGS, 3d ed.—Carter and Foster—*Wiley*.

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FORESTRY IN FARM MANAGEMENT—Westveld and Peck—*Wiley*, $3.

GARDEN CLUBS AND SPADES—Laurence McKinney—*Dutton*, $1.

GARDENING FOR YOUNG PEOPLE—M. G. Kains —*Greenberg*, $1.50.

THE GLADIOLUS—F. T. McLean—*Whittlesey*, $2.

GROWING TREE AND SMALL FRUITS, 2d ed.—H. B. Knapp and E. C. Auchter—*Wiley*, $2.75.

HORTUS SECOND, rev. ed.—L. H. Bailey and Ethel Z. Bailey—*Macmillan*, $12.

HYDROPONICS (Food Without Soil)—C. Isabel Hilyer—*Penquin Books*, 25c.

I LIKE GARDENING—Jean Hersey—*Hale, Cushman and Flint*, $2.

MAINTENANCE OF SHADE AND ORNAMENTAL TREES—P. P. Pirone—*Oxford*, $4.

MODERN FRUIT PRODUCTION—J. H. Gourley and F. S. Howlett—*Macmillan*, $4.50.

NUT GROWERS HANDBOOK — C. D. Bush — *Judd*, $1.75.

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PRACTICAL GREENHOUSE CULTURE — T. H. Everett—*Macmillan*, $3.50.

PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICE OF FEEDING FARM ANIMALS—E. T. Halnan and F. H. Garner —*Longmans*, $4*.

PRINCIPLES OF DAIRYING, 3d ed.—Judkins and Mack—*Wiley*.

PRUNING TREES AND SHRUBS—E. P. Felt—*Judd*, $2.

SCIENCE IN THE GARDEN—H. B. Logan and J.-M. Putnam—*Duell*, $2.50.

SOIL MECHANICS—D. P. Krynine—*McGraw*, $5.

SOILS AND SOIL MANAGEMENT—A. F. Gustafson—*McGraw*, $3.

SUNSET'S VISUAL GARDEN MANUAL — Elsa Uppman—*Lane Pub.*, $1.

TRY THESE INDOORS, A Handbook of Unusual House Plants—A. H. Wood, Jr. — *Hale, Cushman and Flint*, $1.75.

WE WANTED A FARM—M. G. Kains—*Greenberg*, $2.50.

YOUR GARDEN AND MINE — Ruth Cross — *Prentice-Hall*, $2.50.

Anthropology

ANIMAL REMAINS FROM TELL ASMAR (Studies in Ancient Oriental Civilization, No. 20)—Max Hilzheimer; Trans. by A. A. Brux — *U. Chicago*.

ARIZONA INDIANS — Joseph Miller — *Hastings House*, $1.

AZTECS OF MEXICO — George C. Vaillant — *Doubleday*, $4.

A BIBLIOGRAPHY OF HUMAN MORPHOLOGY, 1914-39—W. M. Krogman—*U. Chicago*, $3.

CEREMONIAL COSTUMES OF THE PUEBLO INDIANS—V. M. Roediger—*U. Calif.*, $15.

THE EXCAVATION OF MEDINET HABU, III-IV. THE MORTUARY TEMPLE OF RAMSES III. Parts I-II. (Oriental Institute Publications, Vols. LIV-LV.)—Uvo Hölscher—*U. Chicago*.

EXCAVATIONS AT OLYNTHUS, Vol. X, Metal and Minor Miscellaneous Finds—D. M. Robinson—*Johns Hopkins*.

EXCAVATIONS IN THE FT. LIBERTE REGION, HAITI; CULTURE OF THE FT. LIBERTE REGION, HAITI—F. G. Rainey and Irving Rouse —*Yale*, $3. (Pubs. in Anthropology, nos. 23 and 24, in one volume.)

THE GATES OF DREAMS, An Archaeological Examination of Vergil, Aeneid, VI, 893-899—E. L. Highbarger—*Johns Hopkins*, $3.

INDIAN ART OF THE UNITED STATES—F. H. Douglas and René d'Harnoncourt—*Mus. of Modern Art*, $2.75.

THE INDIANS OF THE WESTERN GREAT LAKES —W. Vernon Kinietz—*U. Mich.*, Bound, $4; Paper, $3.50.

INDUS VALLEY PAINTED POTTERY—R. F. S. Starr—*Princeton*, $3.50.

IRAN IN THE ANCIENT EAST — E. Herzfeld — *Oxford*, $40.

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SIXTY YEARS OF INDIAN AFFAIRS, 1789-1850—G. D. Harmon—*U. N. Car.*, $5.

TREE-RING ANALYSIS AND DATING IN THE MISSISSIPPI DRAINAGE — Florence Hawley — *U. Chicago*, $1.50.

WINONA AND RIDGE RUIN—Pt. I, John C. McGregor, $5.25; Pt. II, Harold S. Colton, $1.75—*Northern Ariz. Soc. of Science and Art*.

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SO THAT'S ASTRONOMY! — R. Ray Baker — *Reilly & Lee*, $1.
SPEAKING OF EARTH — Gertrude Gouvy — *Bruce Humphries*, $1.
THE STORY OF THE STARRY UNIVERSE—D. P. Todd—*Collier*.

Biology

ANIMAL BIOLOGY, 3d ed.—M. F. Guyer — *Harper*, $3.75*.
THE BEGINNINGS OF SOCIAL BEHAVIOR IN UNICELLULAR ORGANISMS—H. S. Jennings —*U. Penn.*, 50c.
BIOLOGICAL SYMPOSIA, Vol. II—Jaques Cattell, ed.—*Cattell Pr.*, $2.50.
BIOLOGY AND HUMAN AFFAIRS—J. W. Ritchie —*World Bk.*
BIOLOGY FOR LIFE, rev. ed.—Cope and Mosley —*College Entrance Bk.*, 96c.
BIOLOGY OF THE LABORATORY MOUSE—G. D. Snell—*Blakiston's*.
BIOLOGY WORKBOOK—B. B. Vance, C. A. Barker and D. F. Miller—*Lippincott*, 92c.
THE BODY FUNCTIONS—Gerard (Wendt Science Series)—*Wiley*, $2.25.
COMPARATIVE CHORDATE ANATOMY — Clair A. Hannum—*Stanford*, $2.
COMPARATIVE EMBRYOLOGY OF VERTEBRATES—A. F. Huettner—*Macmillan*, $4.50*.
THE CREATION, A Brief Discussion of the Causes of Evolution—Harriet Marot—*Old Country Road Press*, $1.
ELEMENTS OF GENETICS — E. C. Colin — *Blakiston's*, $3.
FOUNDATIONS OF BIOLOGY—L. L. Woodruff—*Macmillan*, $3.75*.
GENERAL BIOLOGY, 2d ed.—J. W. Mavor—*Macmillan*, $4*.
GENES AND THE MAN—H. Bentley Glass—*Teachers Coll., Columbia U.*
THE GENETIC AND ENDOCRINE BASIS FOR DIFFERENCES IN FORM AND BEHAVIOR AS ELUCIDATED BY STUDIES OF CONTRASTED PURE-LINE DOG BREEDS AND THEIR HYBRIDS—C. R. Stockard and Collaborators—*Wistar Inst.*, $7.50.
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NATURE NOTES — John Kieran — *Doubleday*, $1.50.
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FOE OF SPRING HATS

Ladies' hats were nearly the death of him. Or his ancestors about 30 years ago. For this is an egret, and the fashion craze for feathers such as these almost wiped out these beautiful birds. This is an official photograph of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

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Science News Letter, April 19, 1941

GENETICS

A Catch

• "Modern medicine is almost uncanny in its treatment of . . . organic diseases. . . . But there is a catch in this arrangement. Most of these conditions are probably inherited. . . . Which means that our doctor friend while doing us the greatest possible service is also, more than any one else, hastening racial degeneration."—G. H. Estabrooks in MAN, THE MECHANICAL MISFIT (*Macmillan*).

Science News Letter, April 19, 1941

PSYCHOLOGY

To Enjoy Life

• "In every maladjusted individual, the ability to enjoy life in one or another of its aspects is at least partially impaired. The patient may not recognize this fully, except in retrospect after he has improved. . . . A particularly important factor in the attainment of happiness is the ability to form genuinely affectionate relationships."—A. H. Maslow and Bela Mittelmann in PRINCIPLES OF ABNORMAL PSYCHOLOGY (*Harper*).

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NATURAL HISTORY

Figs

• "I will never get over the Haitians' insistence on calling bananas 'figs'! After heated debate extending over some months, I finally lost my temper and took the trouble to order a case of figs from overseas just to show them. When I did so, and invited the assembled company—which included some educated Jamaicans,

THORS SAY:

I might add—to sample them, they took one look and two sniffs and said, *'Ah! Ce sont des fraises!'* (strawberries) I lost years at that moment."—Ivan T. Sanderson in LIVING TREASURE (*Viking*).

Science News Letter, April 19, 1941

GEOGRAPHY

Like an Egg

• "With her (Africa), the basic structure is the race, a broader, simpler, and more fundamental unit than the complex division embodied in the nation. Changes in national sovereignty may leave her completely unmoved . . . but interfere with the solidarity of races, and you attempt a feat like that of standing the egg on its small end: it quickly upsets; and its oscillations and gyrations give evidence of the drastic and unnatural experiment that has been attempted."—Richard Upjohn Light in FOCUS ON AFRICA (*American Geographical Society*).

Science News Letter, April 19, 1941

MEDICINE

Public Service

• "I am convinced that medicine, like education, will ultimately become a public service in every civilized country. All trends are in that direction. Under such a system medicine can fully apply all scientific means at its disposal and can reach the entire population. Under it, moreover, the risks are spread among the largest possible number of people and their resources are pooled."—Henry E. Sigerist in MEDICINE AND HUMAN WELFARE (*Yale Univ. Press*).

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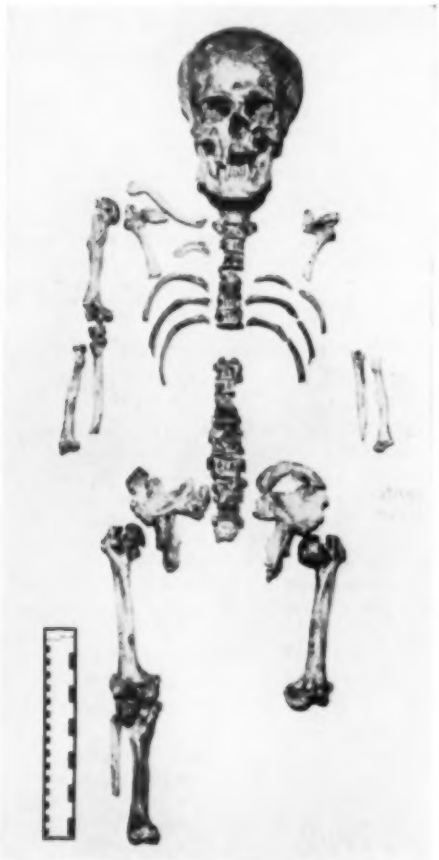
ANTHROPOLOGY

Skeletons of Indian Dwarf Couple Described at Meeting

Abnormality Is of Type Fairly Common Among All Races, But Only One Other Indian Dwarf Skeleton Is Known

SKELETONS of a pair of dwarfs, the rarest abnormality known among prehistoric American Indians, were described before the American Association of Physical Anthropologists, meeting in Chicago, by Dr. Charles E. Snow of the Alabama Museum — W.P.A. Archaeological Laboratory, Birmingham, Ala. Only one other Indian dwarf skeleton, a specimen from Florida now in the National Museum in Washington, D. C., is known to science.

The two skeletons were found buried a few feet deep in Mound State Monument, Moundville, Ala., and were measured as they lay. The man's skeleton indicated a height during life of between 4 feet 4 inches and 4 feet 6 inches. The woman aparently had measured approximately 4 feet 1 inch. The skull of the male was in fairly good condition, but the woman's skull was so badly crushed that restoration was impossible.



RARE DWARF INDIAN

Skeleton of one of the two dwarf Indians found at Moundville, Ala., as prepared and photographed by Dr. Charles E. Snow of the Alabama Museum of Natural History—WPA Archaeological Laboratory, Birmingham, Ala. Note extreme shortness of arm and leg bones: the larger black-and-white marks on the measure alongside the right leg mark a height of eight inches to the knee.

The two dwarfs were of a type fairly common among all races, with normal sized bodies but abnormally short legs and arms and often enlarged heads, technically termed chondrodystrophic dwarfs, Dr. Snow stated. A serious upset of the internal glands that control growth is considered possibly responsible for this kind of dwarfism.

The skull of the little Indian man is very large, and is shaped much as are the skulls of the same type of dwarf among white people, with prominent, bulging forehead and a concave, "nubbin-nosed" face. Arm and leg bones are short and massive, with rugged, highly developed areas for the attachment of muscles.

Both Indian dwarfs appear to have had their own share of physical ailments, for many of the teeth of the man's jaws show cavities and there are evidences of abscesses. There are also evidences of possible arthritis on the joints on the spinal columns of both dwarfs.

No evidence of the dwarfs' lot in life was found with their skeletons. Both were buried faces downward, with legs and arms partly drawn up. There were no funeral gifts accompanying them.

Science News Letter, April 19, 1941

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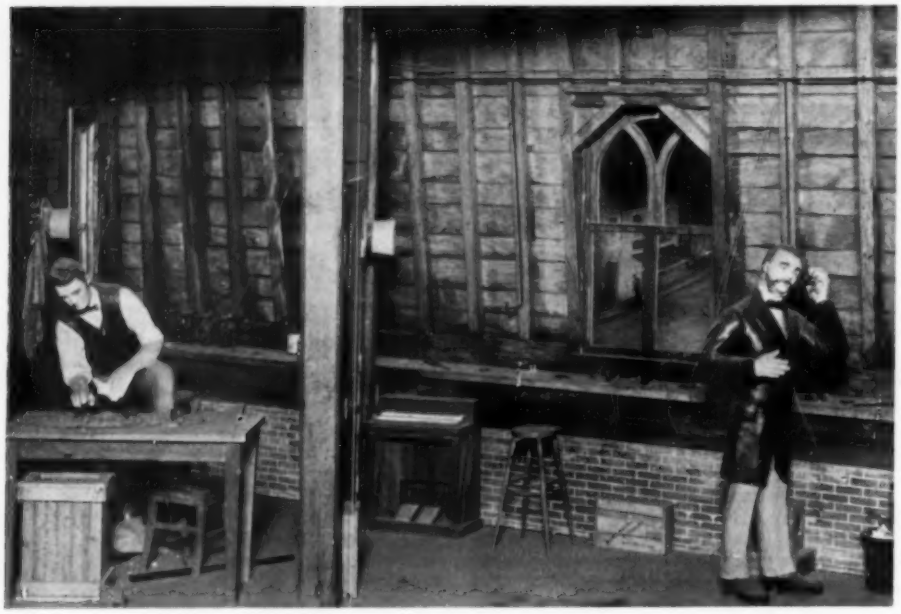

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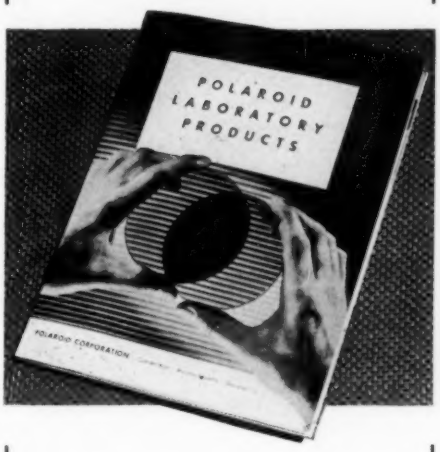

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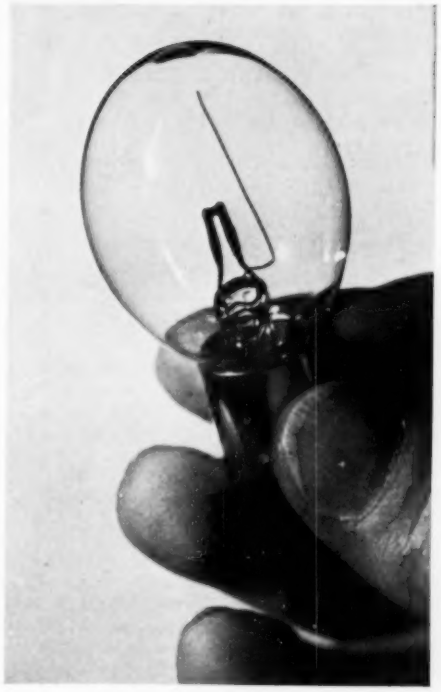

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